

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

After the foregoing Amendment, claims 1-7 and 9-22 are currently pending in this application. Claims 1, 19 and 22 have been amended to more distinctly claim the subject matter of invention. Applicant submits that no new matter has been added by the present amendments.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC §102

In the Action, claims 1 - 7 and 9 - 22, were rejected under 35 U.S.C §102(b) as anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 6,162,044 to Babin. Applicant respectfully traverses this rejection.

Babin discloses a valve gated injection molding apparatus having a heated nozzle with three valve pins arranged in a triangular formation at one end of the nozzle.

Babin fails to suggest or disclose an injection molding nozzle having at least two outlet openings (2) disposed substantially opposite one another along a common axis in an end region of the injection molding nozzle directed toward different sides of the nozzle. Furthermore, Babin is completely silent regarding a common drive element for displacing the closure needles in a closing direction, with the drive element being a displacement member movable between ends of the closure needles, and the drive element including a cross section that is at least one of a cone, conical,

tapered, a cam disk and an eccentric disk as recited in each of independent claims 1, 9 and 22. As these elements are clearly absent from Babin, withdrawal of the Section 102 rejection in view of Babin is respectfully requested. Claims 2 - 7 and 10-21 depend from these claims, they should also be patentable over Babin.

Claims 19 and 22 were rejected in the Action under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as anticipated by EP 0 447 573 to Guenther.

Guenther discloses a hot runner nozzle (10) having conducting tips (28) on a thermally conductive mount (30). Guenther also mentions "a shut-off needle (50)...in the main runner (22)" in the English language abstract, although such item is not shown in Figure 1 as stated in the Action.

Guenther fails to suggest or disclose at least two outlet openings, disposed substantially opposite one another along a common axis in an end region of the injection molding nozzle directed toward different sides of the nozzle, as recited in claims 1, 9 and 22. The material flow in the hot runner nozzle of Guenther is indicated by "M" in Figure 1 and does not flow through the cone(s) (62) of the stamping surface (64). As shown in Figure 3, the end of the cone is solid. The flow of material emerges from the bottom of the nozzle (10) through the main runner (22). This arrangement is less efficient and indirect as compared to the present invention since the conducting tips (28) regulate the flow of material by heating and cooling. Such a regulation does not provide a good metering of the flow of material

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Guenther further fails to suggest or disclose a common drive element for displacing closure needles in a closing direction, the drive element being a displacement member movable between ends of the closure needles, and the drive element including a cross section that is at least one of a cone, conical, tapered, a cam disk and an eccentric disk, as recited in claim 1. In fact, no drive element is disclosed by Guenther as the tips of the lead points (28) are stationary. Applicant respectfully submits that claim 19 and 22 are patentable over Guenther. Withdrawal of the Section 102 rejection in view of Guenther is respectfully requested.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC §103

Claim 4 was again rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Babin in view of U.S. Patent No. 2,471,683 (Halbach). Applicant respectfully traverses this rejection.

Halbach fails to remedy the above-noted deficiencies with respect to Babin. Halbach discloses a nozzle mechanism for an injection molding machine including nozzles (20, 21) which extend from branches (18, 19) at right angles thereto. However, Halbach fails to suggest or disclose an injection molding nozzle having at least two outlet openings (2) disposed substantially opposite one another along a common axis in an end region of the injection molding nozzle directed toward different sides of the nozzle, as recited in independent claim 1. Halbach also fails to

suggest or disclose a common drive element for displacing closure needles in a closing direction, the drive element being a displacement member movable between ends of the closure needles, and the drive element including a cross section that is at least one of a cone, conical, tapered, a cam disk and an eccentric disk, as recited in claim 1. Accordingly, withdrawal of the § 103 rejection of claim 4 is respectfully requested.

Claims 11-13 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Babin in view of U.S. Patent No. 4,662,837 (Anderson). Applicant respectfully traverses this rejection.

Anderson also fails to remedy the above-noted deficiencies of Babin. Specifically, Anderson fails to suggest or disclose an injection molding nozzle having at least two outlet openings (2) disposed substantially opposite one another along the same axis in an end region of the injection molding nozzle directed toward different sides of the nozzle, as recited in independent claim 1. Anderson also fails to suggest or disclose a common drive element for displacing closure needles in a closing direction, the drive element being a displacement member movable between ends of the closure needles, and the drive element including a cross section that is at least one of a cone, conical, tapered, a cam disk and an eccentric disk, as recited in claim 1.

There is also no showing as to why or how these references could be combined to render the present invention obvious. It is well settled that the fact that the prior art must be modified to produce the claimed invention does not make the claimed invention obvious unless there is something in the prior art to suggest the desirability of making such a modification. *In re Laskowski*, 10 USPQ2d 1397, 1398 (Fed.Cir. 1980). A rejection based on Section 103 must rest on a factual basis, with the facts being interpreted without hindsight reconstruction of the invention from the prior art.

The initial duty is on the USPTO to supply the factual basis for the rejection advanced. It is not permissive because of doubts that the invention is patentable, to resort to speculation, unfounded assumptions, or hindsight reconstruction to supply deficiencies in the factual basis. *Ex parte Havmond*, 41 USPQ2d 1217 (BdPatApp&Int 1996). That is, there must be some logical reason apparent from positive, concrete evidence of record which justifies a suggestion to modify a prior art structure. See *In re Regel*, 188 USPQ 136, 139 (CCPA 1975). No such evidence to combine the references was provided in this case, which merely combined the two references after reviewing the claimed subject matter, without regard to providing a motivation for the combination or an explanation as to how all of the required claim elements are met.

Accordingly, withdrawal of the Section 103 rejection of claims 11 - 13 is respectfully requested.

Response to Arguments

The Action stated (regarding the arguments filed October 6, 2005) that:

In response to applicant's argument that the references fail to show certain features of applicant's invention, it is noted that the features upon which applicant relies (i.e. *the closure needles directed towards different sides of the mold cavity*) are not recited in the rejected claim(s).

Applicant is unsure what is meant by this statement since there was absolutely no mention whatsoever of a mold cavity in the October 6, 2005 response. It appears that the Action is distinguishing between different sides of the nozzle and different sides of the mold apparatus. This is not accurate since different sides of the nozzle would correspond to different sides of the mold apparatus. However, applicant has attempted to clarify this by the present amendment as it appears that the differences between the present invention and the prior art are well defined.

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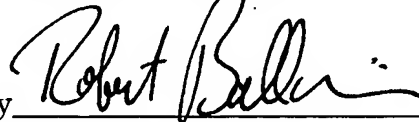
Conclusion

If the Examiner believes that any additional minor formal matters need to be addressed in order to place this application in condition for allowance, or that a telephone interview will help to materially advance the prosecution of this application, the Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned by telephone at the Examiner's convenience.

In view of the foregoing amendment and remarks, Applicant respectfully submits that the present application, including claims 1 - 7 and 9 - 22, is in condition for allowance and a notice to that effect is respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,

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